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Excess Fat In Our Foreign Budgeting

In searching out excess fat in federal budgeting, Congress might profitably consider the charge by Senator Stephen Young, Ohio Democrat, that the government has too many "relaxed Americans overseas living high on the hog."

He believes the administration should eliminate at least 10 per cent of its diplomatic, foreign aid and international intelligence employees by not filling vacancies when resignations and retirements occur.

Senator Young has cited employees of the foreign aid agency, the U. S. Information Agency, the Central Intelligence Agency, military missions and representatives from virtually every federal agency on special missions of one kind or another.

The USIA has more than 8,000 on its payroll overseas and nearly 2,000 at home. The Agency for International Development runs the foreign aid program with more than 8,000 abroad and 2,200 here. The State Department payroll shows 24,000.

Congress should have—and exercise—some watchdog authority in this mushrooming bureaucracy, Senator Young argues. His statement indicates that a reduction of at least 10 per cent in U. S. payrolls abroad would be a break for taxpayers with no real damage to various programs being administered on foreign soil.

